

I CLAIM:

1. A roofing tile comprising:
a generally rectangular element(10) having
lateral edges(11,12) and top and bottom
portions(13,14),
wherein one side of said tile has a plurality
of ribs(16) formed thereon,
wherein said ribs increase in depth from the
top portion of the tile to the bottom portion
of said tile,
wherein said ribs are formed in a generally
crossing pattern and form means whereby
compartments(21-32) are present and comprise
increasing volumes from top to bottom,
the tile providing means whereby fire or
flame spread is significantly reduced.
2. The roofing tile of claim 1 wherein said ribs
are shaped to form diamond or partial diamond
patterns to reduce flame spread.

3. The roofing tile of claim 2 wherein smaller triangular areas(60) are formed at lateral edges of the tile, said triangular areas(60) having upper portion means(60a) for directing a flame-melted material to a center portion of said tile.
4. A method of delaying the spread of flame-melted or hazardous materials comprising the steps of:
 - 1) providing a base element(70) having upper and lower portions(71,72),
 - 2) providing rib elements(81-84) extending from said base element(70),
 - 3) collecting hazardous material in chambers (A,B,C) of progressively increasing volume moving down the base element(70).